any other town in a district in lieu of the District Headquarter. The choice of District Headquarters/Towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/Towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on his business decision. There is no mandatory requirement for coverage of 100% of the Service Area.

However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has plans to cover the Bariya Taluka of Dahod District during the current financial year.

Mobile services in U.P.

3042. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL's mobile service is available in all districts of U.P. in general and Sultanpur in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its range in kms. in Sultanpur;

(c) the number of SIM cards provided by Government to Sultanpur and how many cards were issued to customers;

(d) whether Government are aware that SIM cards are given to VIPs/ influential persons while general people are not being provided;

(e) whether Government would intervene in the matter and instruct the authorities to give SIM cards to applicants on first time first serve basis; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL's Cellular Mobile Service is available in all the Districts of U.P. including Sultanpur.

(b) Cellular Mobile Service has been planned covering the city limits of the district.

(c) Out of 5750 SIM cards allotted to Sultanpur, 5150 SIM cards have been issued to customers.

(d) and (e) No such case has come to the notice of the Department so far, as SIM cards are being given on first come and first serve basis.

(f) Does not arise in view of (d) and (e) above.